

# Culmstock Rural District.

COUNTY OF DEVON.

## Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ended 31st December, 1908.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1908, and am pleased to say that on the whole you will find it a favourable one as regards the health of your district.

### VITAL STATISTICS:

**Births.** Total Births registered numbered 89, giving a Birth Rate of 27.3 per 1,000. This shows a slight increase on the rate for 1907, when it was 23.6 per 1000. The average for the past 10 years was 26.05 per 1,000. The rate for England and Wales for 1907 was 26.3.

Of the births registered 49 were male and 40 female, 84 legitimate and 5 illegitimate.

**Deaths.** The total number of Deaths was 43, giving a Death Rate of 13.2 per 1,000, a slight increase on that of last year, which was 11.9 per 1,000. The average rate for the past 10 years was 12.8. The rate for England and Wales for 1907 was 15 per 1000. Nineteen of the deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age and four in infants under one year. This gives an infant death rate of 44.9 per 1000 births registered, a great improvement upon 1907, when it was 207.7 per 1000 births registered. The average for the past ten years was 96.5 per 1000, and the rate for England and Wales for 1907 was 118 per 1000. There has not been a single death registered from notifiable zymotic disease.

Following are the classified cause of death :—Influenza, 3 ; Enteritis, 1 ; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 6 ; Other Tubercular Diseases, 2 ; Cancer, 4 ; Bronchitis, 1 ; Pneumonia, 1 ; Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs, 1 ; Premature Birth, 1 ; Heart Diseases, 8 ; Accidents, 3 ; Suicide, 1 ; All Other Causes, 11.

### Vital Statistics of the Separate Parishes.

Parish.	Estimated Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under One Year.
Culmstock ...	743	16	12	0
Hemyock ...	810	34	8	2
Clayhidon ...	450	10	7	1
Burlescombe ...	657	16	9	1
Holcombe Rogus	590	3	7	0



**House Accommodation.** Several New Houses have been erected in your district, and I think the adoption of Building Bye-Laws is proving satisfactory in keeping up a higher standard of sanitation in new buildings.

No cases of overcrowding have occurred.

**Water Supply** is entirely from wells and springs, and on the whole is very good, and your district is always remarkably free from waterborne disease. I have analysed about the usual number of samples of water, and, where necessary, steps have been taken to improve the quality.

**Sewerage and Drainage.** The chief point of interest during the past year has been the difficulty which has been found in providing the new sewer, which is badly needed for Millmoor, Culmstock. As a result of a Local Government Board Enquiry your proposed scheme was rejected. You have since laid another scheme before the Local Government Board, and a further Enquiry has been promised for some months; in the meantime the need for a sewer is pressing, as the matter has been under consideration for about 18 months, but you are unable to take further steps, pending the action of the Local Government Board.

Several nuisances have been dealt with during the year, but I think there has been less cause for complaint than usual.

**Slaughter Houses and Bakehouses.** Have all been inspected and kept in good order. During the year one new slaughter house at Holcombe Rogus has been put into use.

**Isolation Hospital.** None.

**Prevalence of Sickness.** On the whole 1908 was a healthy year in your district. In the Spring we were visited by an Epidemic of Influenza, which I regret to say was responsible for three deaths. Three cases of notifiable Zymotic Disease occurred viz:—one each of Whooping Cough, Puerperal Fever, and Erysipelas, with no death. After due consideration, and with the Sanction of the Local Government Board, you have included Measles and Whooping Cough in the Schedule of compulsorily Notifiable Diseases. This came into force on June 1st, 1908, and will hold good for at least a term of five years, when the question may be reconsidered. I think this is an advance in the right direction as now we shall have more knowledge as to the extent of prevalence of these Diseases, and be able to take more active steps for their prevention and nonspread, responsible as they are for so many avoidable deaths.

**Disinfection,** After Infectious Diseases, is carried out by your Inspector.

**Dairies and Cowsheds Act.** Up to the end of 1908 no premises were registered in your district.

**Factories and Workshops Act.** I inspected the premises occupied by 27 out-workers in lace mending at Holcombe Rogus and Burlescombe, and found them satisfactory.

**Midwives Act.** I have inspected the registered Midwives in your district and found they were doing their best according to their knowledge, but they are all untrained.

I wish to testify, finally, to the ready help I always receive from your Inspector.

I am, Gentlemen,

Obediently yours,

W. HORTON DATE.

